



**Written Testimony
Joyce Stille, Town Manager, Town of Bolton
Public Safety Committee
March 4, 2014**

In Support of - HB-5391, An Act Concerning Overtime and Fringe Benefits for Resident State Troopers

The town of Bolton currently utilizes the resident state trooper program to ensure public safety in our community. Over the past years we have experienced a dramatic increase in the costs associated with both overtime and benefits, as well as delayed communication regarding the adjustment of the fringe benefit rate. These last minute modifications are done after local budgets have been established, creating an undue burden on the town.

Recently the state legislature *increased* the amount towns are required to reimburse the state for Resident State Trooper overtime costs from 70% to 100%. Due to this increase in cost, as well as the flat funding of state aid to municipalities, the cost of delivering such critical services is becoming more and more difficult to manage in our local budget.

The Resident State Trooper program has been a strong state-local partnership for over 60 years, and it is critical to protecting the public safety of our citizens and businesses. I look forward to continuing this partnership and urge your support of HB-5391, which allow local communities to continue to utilize the resident state trooper program to ensure public safety.